

TOWN OF IPSWICH
MASSACHUSETTS

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Meeting of Tuesday, February 17, 2015,
Ipswich Town Hall, 25 Green Street

Pursuant to the Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. Chapter 30A, §§ 18-25, written notice posted by the Town Clerk and delivered to all Board members, a meeting of the Board of Selectmen (BOS) was held on Tuesday, FEBRUARY 17, 2015 at 7 PM in Selectmen's Meeting Room A.

With a quorum present, Chairman. Craft called the meeting to order at 7:12 PM
Selectmen present: William Craft, Chair; Judy Field; and Charles Surpitski, V. Chair.
Also present: Robin Crosbie, Town Manager
Not present: Shirley Berry and Nishan Mootafian
The open meeting was recorded, with permission, by Ipswich Access Community Media.

Public Information:

Agenda --Packet
Consent Agenda
Minutes – January 20, 2015
Employee Status

Announcements

A major structural fire occurred today in Town, Fire Chief Gagnon discussed what occurred. Initial alarm was made by a person knocking on the door of the fire station at 5:16 AM. The surrounding buildings sustained only cosmetic damage, and no structural damage. The state fire marshals are investigating the cause of the fire, it is not suspicious at this time. Flooring materials contained in the building were hazardous for breathing and burn like gasoline. The building has been demolished so it does not become a hazard. One fire fighter was injured from a slip on the ice, and a civilian suffered smoke inhalation.

Citizen's Queries

Will Holton, 21 Upper River Road: He is appearing again in regards to a problem he and his neighbors are having with the noise from the Hellenic Center. He would like to know what the status of this is, and if they have formulated a plan on how to alleviate the problem. Mr. Craft confirmed the BOS sent a letter to the Hellenic Center, the Board has not received a formal response. The effort was to raise the issue formally, and ask them to be more mindful of the noise concerns in the area. Mr. Surpitski requested that the neighbors call the Police Department when there are noise complaints and for Chief Nikas to notify the Board.

Introduction of Library Director

Patty DiTullio started about a week ago, as the Library Director. She has worked in libraries for the last 20 years around the state of Massachusetts. She is looking forward to see what the future of the Ipswich Library is, and how it may expand. The community is very active and that makes it exciting to be here.

Liquor License Change of Manager & New Officers/Directors

Herb Capron, 109 Bare Hill Road, Boxford, new Rear Commodore for the Ipswich Bay Yacht Club (IBYC) appeared before the Board. Mr. Capron requested the seasonal liquor license for IBYC to be in his name as manager due to his new position. There are also new officers for the club.

Vote: Mr. Surpitski moves to accept the changes in command at the Ipswich Bay Yacht Club, Ms. Field seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Sale of Property at 6-8 First Street-Execution of Deed

Jim Kroesser, 2 Scottons Lane, member of the Affordable Housing Committee, appeared before the Board to discuss 6-8 First Street. Habitat for Humanity plans to renovate these properties to make more affordable housing. The town is to loan them \$100,000. If the renovations are completed by December 15, 2016 the loan will be forgiven. Don Preston appeared before the Board to explain the process. Starting this month they will start looking for local income appropriate families. They allow applications to be processed for 60 days. Whoever is chosen must put in 400 hours of sweat equity as part of the requirements. Mr. Surpitski requested information on where the funds would come from, and Mr. Kroesser confirmed it would come from the Affordable Housing Trust.

Vote: Mr. Surpitski moved to approve the loan agreement between Habitat of Humanity North Shore and the Town of Ipswich and providing the Assistant Treasurer with the power to sign the paperwork and the Assistant Treasurer to execute the Deed and Ms. Field seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Water & Wastewater Budget-Vote on Preferred Option

Wastewater: Vicki Halmen, Water Waste Water Manager appeared before the Board to discuss the budget for FY16. The rates do not pay for everything therefore surplus is needed to make up the difference. Rate increases and surplus use will be required to maintain the services. A PowerPoint presentation was shown to the Board. Rate Hearings will take place in the spring before the BOS. Ms. Crosbie stated that the five year plan is to end up with a maintained levels of spending. Mr. Craft requested confirmation that if we do lower rate increases in the beginning, they will need to be higher in future years. Ms. Halmen stated she showed the worst case scenarios,

Jim Engle, 362 Linebrook Road-Hoped the BOS would be direct as to what they want from the subcommittee on the budget and rate increases. It would be useful to hear the Board tell the group what the surplus maintained should be. He does not think the sub-committees should buy their total comfort with the money from others. Mr. Surpitski requested information on the lean years, including if they still have the \$50,000 extraordinary unforeseen line item. Ms. Halmen confirmed it is being assumed in this presentation that it will be used each year to show worst case scenario.

Mr. Surpitski asked what the likelihood of emergency repairs were, and Ms. Halmen said that an example was when pumps broke at the Warf, planned repairs had to be put off to pay for these unexpected failures. Ms. Halmen stated she is not completely comfortable with only leaving \$70,000 in the surplus account but that is up to the Board to decide.

Jim Engle, 362 Linebrook Road-If the Board decided on final amounts the sub-committee could provide a specific proposal that keeps the numbers exactly where the Board would like them to be. Mr. Craft also likes the 100,000 as a goal, and no more then

Vote: Ms. Field allow for \$200,000 end goal and no lower than \$100,000 in the budget, Mr. Surpitski seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Surpitski requested confirmation that discussions had taken place on the salaries, Ms. Halmen said the proposed budgets are in this budget. There are meetings upcoming to further review these. Ms. Halmen's only concern is the breakdown between the Water, Wastewater and Electric allocations because Electric has been a bit higher in recent years. Mr. Surpitski asked if the allocations changes can it be amended by the Board or does it have to go to Town Meeting. Ms. Crosbie said she felt that this could be completed by the Board. Mr. Surpitski asked if they have temporary summer help, Ms. Halmen confirmed that they do, for landscaping type of work. Mr. Surpitski also requested confirmation that the Town pays the MBTA for

the piping that goes under the railroad tracks, Ms. Halmen confirmed that is correct. She confirmed they do not change over time but that a few years ago there were some fee increases after hearings.

Vote: Mr. Surpitski moved to approve the wastewater budget, Ms. Field seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Water: Ms. Halmen went over a PowerPoint Presentation on the Water budget. Jeffrey's Neck project will be longer term debt services, it also is representing the Linebrook Road updates. Ms. Halmen put a placeholder in for Manganese. \$4mil was added to FY20 for this treatment. Mr. Craft confirmed that with water that no matter how this is looked at it requires fairly substantial rate increases.

Jim Engle, 362 Linebrook Rd: The subcommittee is looking for what the minimum and maximum is for the surplus. It is curious to him that the numbers represented are similar with wastewater because the water system is much larger but the reasons for this do make sense to him since the departments are very different. Ms. Halmen stated if there is any fluctuations in the market in June, it would be bad because there is no room to make up any difference. Ms. Crosbie requested how the revenues are tracking, Ms. Halmen said they are meeting the targets currently.

Vote: Mr. Surpitski allow for \$250,000 end goal and no lower than \$100,000 in the budget, Ms. Field seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion followed regarding various budget lines and their purpose.

Vote: Ms. Field moved to accept the budget, Mr. Surpitski seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Jim Engle, 362 Linebrook Rd: Stated this is the first time that the budgets have not gone through the appropriate subcommittees which is very different than the normal circumstances. He would like in the future that the subcommittees can look through and present their findings on budgets. Mr. Craft did not want the subcommittees to feel like they had been worked around. Commissioners have been more involved in the process this year which made the situation different this year. He recommends that the subcommittees view these budgets before Town Meeting and present on them then. Ms. Crosbie confirmed that they would build into next year's schedule time for the subcommittees to view the budgets.

Vote to Close the Warrant

Ms. Crosbie went over the items in the warrant. Under Municipal budgets, she noted that there would be unforeseen budget increases. These increases could be due to the recent snow issues.

Frank Pellino, owner of 10-14 Central Street, appeared before the Board to discuss his request for special legislation for an all alcohol liquor license, on the warrant, he owns the building and would like to have an alcohol license. He believes the town has the right to ask the state to allocate another liquor license to the Town. The license he is requesting would only be used for his restaurant if he left the license would disappear.

Vote: Ms. Field moved to close the warrant for the annual Town Meeting to be held on May 12, 2015 Mr. Surpitski seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Referral of Zoning Articles to Planning Board

Ms. Crosbie explained which articles were being referred to the Planning Board.

Vote: Ms. Field moved to refer the zoning articles to the Planning Board for action and recommendation, Mr. Surpitski seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Vote on Recommended Budget

The Board discussed various items relating to the budget.

Vote: Mr. Surpitski moved to consolidate the Shellfish department staffing into one fulltime member, Ms. Field seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Vote: Ms. Field moved to approve the budget with provisions, Mr. Surpitski seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Consent Agenda

- a) Lifetime Shellfish Permit- Richard C. MacWhinnie Jr. and Douglas Crooker
- b) Common Victuallers License-Ipswich River Provisions
- c) One Day Liquor License-Ipswich Brewery

Vote: Mr. Surpitski moved to approve the consent agenda and Ms. Field seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

None

New Business

Snow Removal Progress: Front loaders have come in from MEMA, but we do not have enough trucks to remove the snow from the areas. One of our trucks is down and being repaired. We are expecting delivery of a new truck, and it should be in before the end of this month. The snow storage areas are Cranes Beach, Pavilion Beach and the Town Wharf. If we do not get more trucks from MEMA we plan to hire trucks and remove the snow from Town. Mr. Surpitski asked about erecting a barrier to prevent hazardous materials from being leaked into the river once the snow melts at the Wharf.

Mr. Craft discussed an article in the Salem Evening News stating that Ipswich has gone down from a 1.6% high school dropout rate to 0.2% dropout rate.

Payments due to the Town Manager based on her contract have not been made. Mr. Craft and Mr. Surpitski are working to resolve this issue.

Adjournment

Vote: Ms. Field moved to adjourn at 10:07, Mr. Surpitski seconded and it was unanimous to do so.

Respectfully submitted by
Jennifer Dionne
2.18.15